



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

National Fish Passage Program Northeast Region

Blockages going, going, . . . gone!

The Northeast Region is home to over 77 million people, about 1/4 of the Nation's population. With our energetic history of industrialization, resource extraction, agricultural and urban development, and other human activities, our streams and rivers now require extensive cooperative restoration if our fishery resources are to flourish.

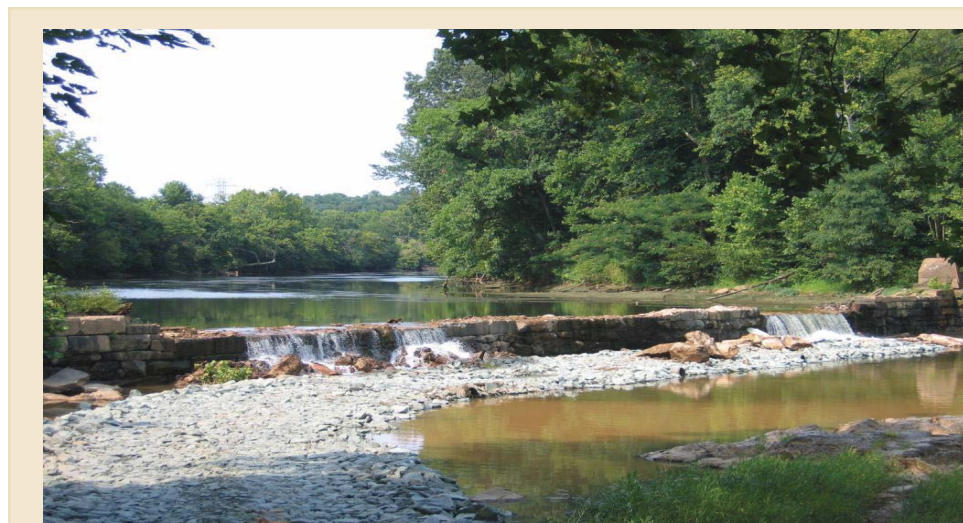
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to work with communities, landowners and others in regional efforts to conserve fish and wildlife. Our partnerships are taking action to improve our rivers, streams and estuaries.

Fish Passage Challenge

Waters of the Northeast vary in character. Some rivers and streams flow from the mountains and agricultural lands of Vermont and New York into the Hudson River or the Great Lakes. Some flow through highly industrialized areas to reach our great estuaries along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Some flow from the Blue Ridge Mountains and rich mining areas to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. While the St. Lawrence, the Merrimack, and the Susquehanna Rivers vary in their destinations, they all have in common a torturous trek through industrial, suburban, and agricultural landscapes where demands for water and resources create a challenge for community leaders. The Fish Passage Program is designed to help meet this challenge.

Fish Passage Program

The Fish Passage Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory program that provides funding and technical assistance to remove or bypass barriers to fish movement such as small dams, poorly placed or undersized culverts, and degraded streams. The Program



Woolen Mills Dam on Rivanna River, Charlottesville, VA with a temporary rock road to allow excavator access.



Ready... Set... Go!!! Nearly all restoration projects require a "bucket with a thumb" to selectively grab and place rock and stone. Excavator with a thumb removes rock from Woolen Mills Dam, Charlottesville, VA.



focuses efforts on priority Federal species including Atlantic salmon, brook trout, American shad, and blueback herring to name a few. The Service is currently working with States, Tribes and other stakeholders to refine fish passage priorities in terms of species and watersheds.

Project assistance available includes information on habitat characteristics of the local native fish, designs for dam removal and stream restoration,

designs for bypass structures, and financial support.

Program Accomplishments

In 2006 and 2007, the Fish Passage Program in the Northeast Region, in cooperation with dozens of partnering organizations and individuals, implemented over 40 projects that removed barriers to fish migration, improved stream and streamside habitat, and provided fishways around immovable man-made barriers.

The goal of the National Fish Passage Program is to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by barriers.



About to go! In New Hampshire, the Merrimack Village Dam on the Souhegan River (left) and the West Swazey Dam on the Ashuelot River (right) will be removed in 2008.

Two photos: Eric Derleth/FWS (2006).



Assembly of an arched culvert with Project SHARE in Maine.



14 foot open arch culvert (with concrete footers) at normal flows. Ample room for terrestrial animals to pass under the road too.



Steve Minkinen/FWS (2006).

The first passageway built for American eels in Maryland was on the dam (10 ft high) at Unicorn Lake in Queen Anne's County. Eels prefer slower moving water and migrate at night along the sides of streams. The eelway is black plastic pipe with plastic netting glued inside on the bottom. A small trickle of water is constantly flowing to keep the netting wet. Eels need traction to wriggle and slither up.

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Three photos: Martha Naley/FWS (2007).